

Portishead Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1938

To the Chairman and Members of the Portishead Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in once again reporting that the health of the District has been excellent. Looking back on my reports I cannot help remarking on how healthy we keep as a district. The lack of extremes of weather helps to make us more than usually suitable for the elderly and the young.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	976 acres
Population	...	...	...	3808
Houses Inhabited	...	...	...	1098 (estimate)
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£30,398
Penny Rate	...	...	...	£117

2. BIRTH and DEATH RATE.

BIRTH RATE. Figures are not yet available from the Registrar General.

DEATH RATE ... 11.25 England and Wales ... 11.6

3. INFANTILE and MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Infants under one year.—Total Deaths, One. Maternal Mortality, Nil. These figures remain very satisfactory.

4. NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Total cases notified				Deaths
Pneumonia	4	...	2
Diphtheria	3	...	Nil

A decrease from last year. There was an epidemic of Measles—which are not notifiable. The County Scheme of Diphtheria Immunization seems to be working well.

5. TUBERCULOSIS.

	Total cases notified				Deaths
Respiratory	3	...	Nil
Non-Respiratory	1	...	Nil

These figures keep satisfactory. Early treatment is increasing the number of cures. The Tuberculosis Care Committee has been of great help to many by care, aids of milk and other activities.

6. NURSING.

The Nursing Association—now under the County Scheme—is working very well. Two competent nurses work our district in conjunction with other areas. The work is excellently done and is much appreciated. Most of the income is derived from voluntary sources.

7. MATERNAL and INFANT WELFARE.

Both nurses are trained midwives. Their work has been most satisfactory. There is one home licenced to take maternity cases.

Infant welfare is dealt with at the Infant Welfare Centre. This is running most satisfactory and a large number of Mothers and Infants attend on alternate Fridays.

Ante-Natal work is carried out under the New County Scheme. This seems to be working quite smoothly.

8. HOSPITAL and AMBULANCE.

Most cases needing Hospital treatment are sent to Bristol. The local Ambulance has done well, but I would like to see some arrangement for a female attendant for female cases. The Bristol Ambulances are used at times.

9. MORTUARY ACCOMMODATION.

This is most unsatisfactory. It is not a suitable building in which to leave any bodies. The conditions make it almost impossible for proper and efficient post-mortem examinations to be made.

10. WATER.

This is satisfactory. Routine Quarterly Bacteriological Examination has in every case given excellent results. A new well is being sunk to augment the supply. The water is still very hard and I think the Water Company might be consulted as to the possibility of having some form of softening apparatus installed.

11. MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Producers on the Register	...	...	...	...	10
Number of Distributors on the Register, divided as follows :—					
(a) Distributors only	...	...	...	...	4
(b) Distributors who are also Producers	...	...	...	...	4
(A producer is only included as a distributor if he definitely makes a business of selling his milk by retail to individual customers)					
Number of licences given to Graded Milk Distributors	...	...	...	...	2
1 Licence to sell Parteurised Milk					
1 Licence to sell Accredited Milk					

12. MEAT SUPERVISION

Slaughter-houses	Licensed 2	Registered 2	Total 4
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13. HOUSING.

Number of New Houses Erected during the Year :—

(i) By Local Authority, with State Assistance,					
(a) Rehousing under Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	10
(b) Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1
(c) Other	...	...	...	...	Nil
Without State Assistance	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) By other Bodies or Persons					
(a) With State Assistance	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Without State Assistance	...	...	...	...	13

I. Housing Inspections :—

1 (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	105
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	15
2 (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	4
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	15
(c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary	...	...	...	...	1
3 Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	1
4 Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation					Nil

II. Housing Action :—

(a) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of Informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action					Nil

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(A) Proceedings under Sections, 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	Nil
2 Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—					
a By Owners	...	...	...	...	Nil
b By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	Nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	4
2 Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—					
a By Owners	...	...	...	...	3
b By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	Nil

(c) *Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
2	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
3	<i>a</i> Clearance Orders made	Nil
	<i>b</i> Number of houses involved	Nil
4	Clearance Orders confirmed	Nil
	<i>a</i> Number of houses involved	Nil
	<i>b</i> Number of houses demolished	Nil
	<i>c</i> Number of houses to be demolished	Nil

(d) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

1	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
2	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

IV. Housing Act, 1936.—Overcrowding.

<i>a</i>	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ...	2
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	2
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	16
<i>b</i>	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	2
<i>c</i>	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	1
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	8
<i>d</i>	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
<i>e</i>	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the M.O.H. may consider it desirable to report ...	Nil

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant,

J. E. McCORMICK, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.,

June 1939.

M.O.H., Portishead Urban District Council.

